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County may let Stone's cameras roll on sixth floor

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After thrice being denied use of the former Texas School Book Depository's sixth floor for his movie on the Kennedy assassination, it appears director Oliver Stone has the votes he needs to get his cameras rolling.

With Commissioner John Wiley Price switching to Stone's side, Dallas County commissioners today are expected to authorize county officials to negotiate a deal granting Stone limited access to the window from which Kennedy was shot.

"It'll be precedent-setting," said Commissioner Nancy Judy, who, with County Judge Lee Jackson, opposes the proposal.

She said at least three film-makers have asked about using the depository and other county buildings in proposed movies.

Jackson, too, said he continues to "oppose any commercial use of this building."

Commissioners Chris Semos, Jim Jackson and Price said they will allow the Dallas County Historical Foundation, which oversees the Kennedy museum on the sixth floor, to strike a deal with Stone.

The foundation's board voted 5-4 last month to give Stone "limited access" to the so-called sniper's perch from which, according to the Warren Commission, Oswald fired at Kennedy's motorcade.

"I think it's time we stop using Oliver Stone as a guinea pig," Price said Monday. "The movie industry and the community need to be partners. But meanwhile, we'll have to devise a policy on the utilization of this and other county buildings in case others want to use it."

Stone

The driving force behind Stone's request has been Semos, who said Monday: "I suspect the issue will pass, and I'm delighted."

Commissioner Jackson said the commission "acted fairly paranoid about the use of the sixth floor, although I have some real reservations about its use. But those don't override other feelings about welcoming and being appreciative of the movie industry."

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